



EXHIBIT 14
DATE 2/3/09
HB 172

Josh understands that we are trying to get a hunting license for him. He drew this picture on our way to Helena. He is holding a gun, straight up and down, in a safe manner.

I grew up enjoying outdoor activities with my father. Hunting was one of those activities. We went hunting every year since I was 14. I have many fond memories of our hunting trips.

I have taken my son Josh with me on my hunting trips. Although he has always enjoyed this, he is now old enough that he wants to hunt also. Josh understands what hunting is about. Because Josh wanted to hunt so badly, we enrolled him in hunters safety. We knew he won't be able to do a written test but he wanted to hunt so much we took the class with him. We had to try. He completed the class & we were offered the chance for Josh to take the test in another room with us helping him so he could understand the questions. It was obvious on the first question that he would not be able to pass the test. Josh was invited to the field test by the head instructor, IRO. An instructor took us through the course and when we completed it, the instructor told IRO that Josh could do it.

Josh knows about gun safety, he knows his animals, he knows how to handle & use a gun.

I hope that you will see the need to pass this bill so that people with disabilities can have the opportunity to enjoy Montana's hunting heritage.

Thank you.

Kirk & Debbie Shinter

Josh Shinter

I would like to add that people with disabilities go through life not being able or allowed to do many things. Please pass this bill so that Josh won't be denied the opportunity to do something he wants to do so much, and that with supervision he can do safely.